Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 SR-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

IO-03 SP-02 IGA-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 EA-06 NSCE-00 RSC-01

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R 201021Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU TO SECSTATE WASHDC 340 INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 5227

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EAID, NP

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR KHAMPAS

REF: A) STATE 270009; B) KATHMANDU 3897

- 1. AS INDICATED REF B WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT GON HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INFLATED THE NUMBER OF KHAMPA REFUGEES FOR WHOM RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED. WE VERY MUCH AGREE WITH RIZVI'S ASSESSMENT OF GON (PARA 1 REF A) FIGURES, AND BELIEVE THAT EVEN HIS OWN ESTIMATES OF NUMBERS AND COSTS MAY BE ON THE HIGH SIDE.
- 2. BOTH THE GON AND THE UNHCR ARELIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A "MORAL" RESPONSIBILITY FOR KHAMPA RESETTLEMENT. THIS IS CLEARLY NOT THE CASE, PARTICULARLY WHEN CURRENT PROBLEM WAS GENERATED BY UNILATERAL GON ACTION ABOUT WHICH WE WERE NOT CONSULTED IN ANY WAY. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, NO OBLIGATION, MORAL OR OTHERWISE, TO PARTICIPATE IN UNHCR'S EFFORTS. HOWEVER, GON MIGHT SEEK TO MAKE THIS A SUBJECT OF BILATERAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE DIMINISHED IF UNHCR IS ABLE TO

MOUNT APPROPRIATE RELIEF EFFORT DRAWING ON WIDE SPECTRUM OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS. WITH REGARD TO THE OVERALL QUESTION OF VISIBILITY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE, IF ANY, NOT BE SALIENT NOR WIDELY PUBLICIZED. GIVEN CHINESE CONCERNS, WE AGREE WITH RIZVI IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT THAT ANY UNHER PROGRAM BE A MODEST ONE WITHOUT ANY RESIDENT PRESENCE IN NEPAL.

3. IN FUTURE MEETINGS WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES WE SHOULD TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE GON ESTIMATES OF FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS ARE INORDINATELY EXAGGERATED AND STATE THAT IN OUR JUDGMENT EVEN THE UNHCR FIGURES OF 2,000 PEOPLE AND ONE-HALF TO THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS ARE OUT OF LINE. WE SHOULD URGE THE UNHCR TO TAKE A HARDER LOOK AT THE ACTUAL SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A MORE OBJECTIVE EVALUATION. WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE USG CONTRIBUTION WE SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT AT THIS TIME GIVEN THE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS WHICH COULD RESULT AS WELL AS THE LACK OF A REALISTIC GON PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, WE MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST THAT IF A FULLY JUSTIFIED PROGRAM IS WORKED OUT BY GON AND UNHCR. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK AGAIN AT INDIRECT CONTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES TO A MULTINATIONAL UNHCR EFFORT. THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED PARA 6 REF A FOR A CALL FORWARD OF WFP COMMODITIES SEEMS TO US THE LEAST DIFFICULT OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES WHICH WE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER. CARGO

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